

**PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 30, 2021**

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting of the Physician Assistant Committee was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C, Vice Chairperson in Conference Room 5B, of the Nebraska State Office Building, located at 301 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, Nebraska. The meeting was held In-Person and by WebEx. The following members answered the initial roll call:

Kathleen Tonkin, PA-C, Vice-Chairperson  
Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
John Massey, MD  
Corrigan McBride, MD (via WebEx)

Absent: Tamara Dolphens, PA-C, Chairperson

A quorum was present, and the meeting convened. Present from the Department was Jesse Cushman, Program Manager and Jan Gadeken-Harris, Health Licensing Coordinator; Suzanna Glover-Ettrich, Department Attorney (via WebEx); Mindy Lester, Assistant Attorney General; Kathleen Kruger, Investigator (via WebEx) with the Investigation Unit and Anna Harrison, Compliance Monitor (via WebEx), from Licensing and Investigations.

Tonkin announced that there is a copy of all the public documents being reviewed at this meeting available in the meeting room pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.

In accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 84-1411 of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, copies of the agenda were e-mailed to the Committee members and other interested parties, posted on the DHHS web site at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>, and posted in the Licensure Unit on July 16, 2021 and Revision posted on July 27, 2021.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Henkenius moved, seconded by McBride, to adopt the agenda as presented. Voting aye: Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dolphens. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

McBride moved, seconded by Henkenius, to approve the meeting minutes of May 7, 2021 as written. Voting aye: Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dolphens. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

**2021 LEGISLATION UPDATES**

The Legislature has adjourned SINE DIE. The PA Committee members had no comments at this time.

**REGULATIONS UPDATE**

Jesse Cushman noted that updates will be made to Title 172 Chapter 90 Licensure and Supervision of Physician Assistants draft regulations after the passing of LB 390.

**INVESTIGATIONAL REPORTS – CLOSED SESSION**

Henkenius moved, seconded by McBride to go into closed session at 2:15 p.m. for the purpose of review and discussion of investigative reports, licensure applications, and other confidential information, and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of the individuals. Voting aye: Henkenius, McBride

and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dolphens. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

McBride moved, seconded by Henkenius, to open the session at 2:50 p.m. Voting aye: Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dolphens. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

### **APPLICATION(S) REVIEW – OPEN SESSION**

MCNABB, KEVIN, PA - application for Reinstatement of his Physician Assistant License: Henkenius moved, seconded by McBride to Table a recommendation for additional information. Voting aye: Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dolphens. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

QUIGLEY, ELLISON JANE – PA Preliminary Conviction Review Application: McBride moved, seconded by Henkenius that based on information available today there is no information to preclude licensure. Voting aye: Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dolphens. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

### **COVID-19 DISCUSSION**

The Governor held a press conference on Monday, June 28, 2021, announcing the expiration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency effective June 30, 2021 (11:59 pm). Read the full news release [here](#).

#### ***What does this mean?***

This means that executive orders 20-10 and 20-37, which were issued under the emergency, and all of the provisions contained therein, will expire on 07/30/2021. You can find the Governor's executive orders [here](#).

#### ***What about deferred renewals?***

Renewal was deferred for some professions, including Physicians, **Physician Assistants**, Acupuncturists, Perfusionists and Surgical First Assistants. Those licensees that have deferred their renewal during the state of emergency will now be required to renew by 10/31/2021. If they choose not to renew, their credential will expire and they will need to cease practicing in Nebraska.

#### ***What about CE waivers for renewals and reinstatements?***

The continuing education waiver for circumstances beyond a licensee's control will remain an option after the expiration of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. As it was during the emergency, if a licensee selects this waiver, they must provide documentation to the Department which outlines the circumstances beyond the licensee's control that prohibited them from obtaining continuing education.

#### ***What about the Department's statement regarding not enforcing the maximum amount of CE hours obtained by home study or online methods?***

The Department recognizes that continuing education is obtained through a variety of outlets, not always located in the State of Nebraska. And, locations outside of the State of Nebraska may still be observing COVID-19 state of emergency precautions. Because of this, the Department will continue to be as flexible as possible with those professions whose renewal period was impacted by the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

### **COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Physician Assistant Committee meeting is scheduled August 27, 2021.

There are potential date changes to the original meeting schedule for the balance of the 2021 year. Any adjustments to the schedule will be listed on the DHHS website:

<https://dhhs.ne.gov/licensure/Pages/Agendas-and-Minutes.aspx>

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Henkenius moved, seconded by McBride, to adjourn the meeting at 3:11 p.m. Voting aye: Henkenius, McBride and Tonkin. Voting nay: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Dolphens. Non-Voting Member: Massey. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

\*signature available upon request\*

Merle Henkenius, Secretary  
Physician Assistant Committee